

61-4403

26 May 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: House Rules Committee Action of 25 May 1961

1. This memorandum is for information only.
2. The Associated Press reports the House Rules Committee named a five-man Subcommittee to determine if a full-scale investigation should be made of the Central Intelligence Agency and similar Top Secret agencies in Defense and State. The Subcommittee consists of Ray J. Madden (Chairman), James J. Delaney, B. F. Sisk, Clarence J. Brown, and H. Allen Smith. Representative Howard W. Smith is quoted in the AP as saying "it was not his intention that the Subcommittee conduct a widespread investigation of intelligence activities," and "he felt a brief study should be made to see if one (probe of intelligence activities) was necessary." Smith further pointed out that his Committee had no authority to order a formal probe and that it could only recommend an investigation but it was up to the full House to order a formal investigation.
3. In the Congressional Record for yesterday, it is reported that the Committee on Rules held hearings on H. Con. Res. 289, to establish a joint committee to conduct an investigation and study of the foreign intelligence activities of the Central Intelligence Agency. Hearings were also held on H. J. Res. 412, 400 and 418, to establish a joint committee on foreign intelligence. H. Con. Res. 289 was introduced on 3 May by Mr. Hiestand, H. J. Res. 400 was introduced on 4 May by Mr. Frelinghuysen, H. J. Res. 412 was introduced on 9 May by Mr. Rogers of Florida, and H. J. Res. 418 on 10 May by Mr. Ryan.

Representatives Hiestand, Rogers (Florida), Frelinghuysen, and Ryan testified at the hearings. Copies of the four resolutions are attached.

4. The Director talked with Mr. Kilday about this matter this morning. It is also reported in the press that the House leaders, taken by surprise, have moved to keep a tight checkrein on the probe although it is reported that Smith gave the Subcommittee authority "to determine for itself whether outside witnesses should be heard although normally the Rules Committee hears only members of Congress as witnesses." It is further reported that the Subcommittee could determine for itself whether or not to conduct public hearings. Mr. Madden is reported to have said that he favors public hearings to the extent that they do not involve national security.

s/ John S. Warner

JOHN S. WARNER
Legislative Counsel

Attachments - 4

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